

Appl. No.: 10/581,989

Amdt. Dated June 15, 2010

Response to Office Action Mailed March 16, 2010

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification by replacing the paragraph beginning on page 4 of the original specification, namely Paragraph [0006] in the published version of this application, U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2007-0217872, with the following replacement paragraph, which is marked to show changes relative to the original version.

[0006] A very flexible design and, in particular, an adequate drop-off characteristic can be achieved if the linear conveying devices of the vehicle feature at least one articulated axle 18 that extends transverse to the conveying direction. In this case, the conveying devices are advantageously designed such that the sections of the linear conveying devices of each vehicle are interconnected in an articulated fashion, as well as to separate actuating drives for raising and lowering the sections. The ability to longitudinally displace raisable sections of this type can be achieved in a particularly simple fashion if at least one section of the linear conveying device is realized in the form of a sled or connected to a sled that can be displaced in the longitudinal direction of the vehicle.

Please amend the specification by replacing the second full paragraph appearing on page 6 of the original specification, namely Paragraph [0014] in the published version of this application, U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2007-0217872, with the following replacement paragraph, which is marked to show changes relative to the original version.

[0014] FIG. 1 shows two vehicles 1 and 2 that respectively feature linear conveying means 3 and 4. These two linear conveying means 3 and 4 may be interconnected rigidly or in an articulated fashion. An additional linear conveying means 5 is arranged underneath the front section of the conveying means. This additional linear conveying means 5 can be displaced in the longitudinal direction of the vehicle by means of a sled or slide track 6 as indicated with the double arrow 7 and raised accordingly in the overhanging position by means of a piston-cylinder unit 8 so as to achieve a corresponding drop-off parabola during the transfer to a succeeding vehicle 2.

Please amend the specification by replacing the paragraph appearing on page 7 of the original specification, namely Paragraph [0016] in the published version of this application, U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2007-0217872, with the following replacement paragraph, which is marked to show changes relative to the original version.

[0016] The reference symbol 11 in FIG. 3 schematically indicates the position of the tunneling machine for driving the roadway in the direction of the arrow 12. The stationary haulage means is schematically indicated with the reference symbol 13 and situated in another, already driven roadway 14. The extension of this haulage means 13 ends at the position 15 such that the distance between the tunneling machine 11 and therefore the heading face 19 and the end of the extension 15 needs to be covered with corresponding vehicles as they are illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2. For this purpose, the vehicles initially travel opposite to the direction of the arrow 12 and subsequently to the already driven roadway 14 containing the haulage means 13 via a crossway 16. Since this distance is relatively long, two vehicles of the type illustrated in FIG. 1 and FIG. 2 are used for covering this section, wherein the transfer point is situated at the position 17 in the crossway 16. Consequently, a first vehicle 1 receives the material mined by the tunneling machine 11 and transports this material to the transfer point 17 where it is transferred to a second vehicle 2 that subsequently transfers the material to the haulage means at the position 15. The first vehicle can travel forward to the meanwhile additionally advanced tunneling machine 11 in order to pick up and haul new material while the second vehicle travels the distance from the transfer point 17 to the stationary haulage means 15.

Please amend the specification by replacing the Abstract with the following Replacement Abstract, which is marked to show changes relative to the original version. A clean copy of the Replacement Abstract is enclosed at the end of this paper.

In a method for the haulage of subsurface-mined material with at least one vehicle featuring a travel drive, at least two vehicles are used in the roadway section between the heading face and a continuously extended haulage ~~means~~ device, wherein at least one material transfer from one vehicle to another vehicle takes place between the heading face and the transfer of the material to the haulage ~~means~~ device.